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the common oriental custom of covenanting with salt; and No. 167 has reference to the observance of a day something like the Hebrew Sabbath.

Both the letters and contracts contain much material useful in the study of the Neo-Babylonian cult. The relation and rank of the many temple officials is a subject which will derive much light from a study of these texts. This is especially true of a class of temple servants called *širaqu*. They were marked or branded with a star (MUL), similar to that placed upon animals, and may have been dedicated to a god.

The primary object of this series being to present only the texts with indices to scholars, no translations have been made, but the indices contain valuable material. First, there is an index of personal names, with more or less full references (such references should be complete, *e.g.*, there is no reference under *Na-din* to No. 18); and then a catalogue of the letters, giving the names of the addresser and addressee; and one of the contracts, giving the date and contents.

The autographed work is splendidly done, but it is a pity that so many printer's errors were allowed to remain in the brief introductory remarks, *e.g.*, "egible" for "legible," "convenanting" for "covenanting"; and in proper names the *dingir* is often omitted when the sign appears in the plates, *e.g.*, p. 37, No. 18. This is a serious error, for students of Babylonian religion are very much concerned with the use of this title. Without the original tablets or a photographed copy it is impossible to check up the accuracy of the copying, but there are some forms which appear questionable, especially in Nos. 93 and 169. But on the whole the copying seems to have been very carefully done.

Assyriologists will look with interest for the succeeding volumes of this series.

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#### SHORT NOTICES

THE VITAL ISSUES OF THE WAR. RICHARD W. BOYNTON. The Beacon Press. 1918. Pp. x, 134. \$1.00.

A volume of eight sermons, endeavoring to clarify the leading moral issues of the war for busy people. The titles of some of the sermons will indicate the scope of the book: "The War and the Social Revolution," "The Influence of Sea Power in War," "America's Leadership in the World of Tomorrow," "The United States of Europe."